THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Air India has already phased out 3 A300B4 aircraft that it had in its fleet whereas Indian Airlines has taken a decision to replace the entire fleet of A300 in a phased manner.

(b) Air India has, at present, no plans for disposal of A 310-300 aircraft which are in its fleet. However, 5 A-300 aircraft in the fleet of Indian Airlines are awaiting disposal.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Indian Airlines had decided to dispose off Airbus A-300 VT-EDW in an airworthy condition. Since, the aircraft was the one which was hijacked while operating IC 814, it was deemed at material evidence in the hijacking case and was put under Superdari by the Court. This Superdari was vacated and permission of the Court to dispose off the aircraft was received by Indian Airlines on 31st January, 2001. Thereafter it was decided to cannibalize the aircraft, and utilize its engines and components. The hull alongwith lending gears of this aircraft, was under process of disposal through M/s. Metal Scrap Trading Corporation, and this process was expected to be completed by May, 2003. However, since the offer received was unsatisfactory, it was decided to sell only the hulls, after removing the Landing Gears, for which disposal action has been undertaken.

Upgradation of airports in Andhra Pradesh

1666. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether upgradation work at airports in Andhra Pradesh has been undertaken to reduce traffic congestion;

(b) if so, the details thereof, airport-wise and work-wise;

(c) whether private participation is also there in such works; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Hyderabad Airport-Extension of apron & construction of isolation bay have been completed and resurfacing & extension of runway is in

progress. Rajahmundry Airport—Strengthening of runway and construction of apron have been completed. Vijayawada Airport—Strengthening of runway, construction of apron, taxi-track and shoulders etc. have been completed. Vishakhapatnam Airport—Construction of new runway, apron, taxi track, isolation bay including shoulders construction of new naval apron, peripheral road and strengthening of existing runway are in progress.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Modernization of communication system

1667. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for the modernisation of telecommunication system in Civil Aviation Department so far;

(b) the investment made thereon; and

(c) the fund earmarked therefor during the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Details of systems provided during the last five years for modernization of telecommunication system in Civil Aviation are as under:

22 High Frequency High Power Transmitters with data link capability for Air to Ground communication and 11 Remote controlled Air to Ground Very High Frequency (VHF) communication through VSAT link at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Trivandrum; 535 VHF Frequency Modulation Sets and 13 Automatic Message Switching System at various airports; 4 Digital airport terminal information service at Mumbai, Bhubaneshwar, Nagpur and Ahmedabad; 6 EPABX at Agra, Srinagar, Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Patna and Central Headquarters, Delhi; 75 High Frequency Receivers at Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Chennai, Trivandrum and Civil Aviation Training College, Allahabad; 2 Voice Controlled Communication System at Chennai and Kolkata; 30 Digital Voice Tape Recorders at various Aeronautical Communication Stations.

(b) Rs. 23.72 crores.

(c) Rs. 97.00 crores.